



## Press Release

### **Press Release Announcement – January 14, 2003 – For Immediate Use**

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## Pennsylvania's Crop Production

HARRISBURG -- Based on year end acreage and yield data, production of alfalfa and other hay, winter wheat, and tobacco in Pennsylvania was above last year's production, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). Production of corn for grain and silage, alfalfa haylage and greenchop, total forage, oats, soybeans, sorghum for grain and silage, and fall potatoes were below last year's production.

Corn for grain production totaled 59.16 million bushels, 39 percent below last year's crop. Corn acres harvested for grain amounted to 870,000 and yielded 68 bushels per acre, 30 bushels per acre less than last year and 59 bushels per acre less than 2 years ago. Corn for silage production at 6.44 million tons, down 18 percent from production in 2001. Acres harvested for silage totaled 560,000, up 14 percent from last year. Yield was 11.5 tons per acre, 4.5 tons per acre below the yield of 2001.

Alfalfa hay production was 1.77 million tons, 5.5 percent above last year's production. Acres harvested were 680,000, an increase of 10,000 acres over last year, with an average yield of 2.60 tons per acre. Alfalfa haylage and greenchop production was 1.86 million tons (green weight), 21 percent below last year's production. Acres harvested were 350,000, with an average yield of 5.30 tons per acre, compared to 420,000 acres and a yield of 5.60 tons per acre last year. All alfalfa forage production was 2.68 million tons (dry weight equivalent), 5 percent below last year's production. Alfalfa acres newly seeded in 2002 for crop production in 2003 totaled 110,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from a year ago. All other hay acres harvested totaled 1,120,000 acres, 140,000 acres above last year, with a yield of 1.60 tons per acre for a total production of 1.79 million tons, up 2 percent from last year. Total forage production on a dry equivalent basis was 4.77 million tons, 1 percent below last year's production and 25 percent below the production of two years ago. Forage was harvested from 2.0 million acres, unchanged from the last two years. Average yield per acre in 2002 was 2.39 dry tons, compared to 2.41 dry tons a year ago.

Oat production was 7.02 million bushels, 6 percent less than last year's production. Harvested acres totaled 115,000, unchanged from last year, and the yield was 61 bushels per acre, 4 bushels per acre below last year. Production of winter wheat was 9.99 million bushels, 20 percent above 2001. Harvested acres totaled 190,000, with a yield of 54.0 bushels per acre, 2 bushels per acre above last year. Winter wheat seeded in the fall of 2002 for production of a crop in 2003 totaled 190,000 acres, up 20,000 from a year ago. Barley production was 4.44 million bushels, 6 percent more than 2001. Acreage harvested was 60,000 with a yield per acre of 74 bushels.

Soybean production, at 9.1 million bushels, was 34 percent less than last year's production. Acreage harvested was 350,000, which was 45,000 acres below 2001. The 2002 yield was 26.0 bushels per acre, 9 bushels per acre less than a year ago.

Sorghum for grain production totaled 144,000 bushels, 64 percent below last year's crop. Sorghum acres harvested for grain totaled 3,000, down 1,000 acres from 2001. Sorghum yield was 48.0 bushels per acre in 2002, compared to a yield for grain of 78.0 bushels last year. Sorghum acres harvested for silage was set at 7,000, up 2,000 from a year ago. Silage yield was 7.0 tons per acres compared to 10.0 tons in 2001. Production of sorghum silage was 49,000 tons, down only slightly from last year.

Fall potato production, at 2.59 million hundredweight (cwt.), was 18 percent less than 2001 production. Acres harvested was 14,000, up 4 percent from last year. The yield of 185 cwt. per acre was down 50 cwt. from last year's yield and 85 cwt. per acre below the yield of two years ago.

Pennsylvania seedleaf-type tobacco production totaled 4.41 million pounds, 7 percent above last year. Acres for harvest was 2,100, up 100 acres from last year, with an average yield per acre of 2,100 pounds, 40 pounds more than last year. Maryland-type tobacco production totaled 2.41 million pounds, 17 percent more than last year. Harvested acreage was 1,300, up 200 acres from last year. The average yield of 1,850 pounds per acre was down 10 pounds from last year.

At the United States level, corn for grain production was estimated at 9.01 billion bushels, virtually unchanged from the November forecast, but down 5 percent from the 9.51 billion bushels produced in 2001. The average U.S. grain yield is estimated at 130.0 bushels per acre, 2.4 bushels above the November forecast, but down 8.2 bushels from 2001. Production of major crops and changes from the previous year are as follows: corn for silage, 105.0 million tons, up 2.8 percent; alfalfa hay, 73.8 million tons, down 8.1 percent; other hay, 77.1 million tons, up 1 percent; oats, 119.1 million bushels, up 1.8 percent; winter wheat, 1.14 billion bushels, down 16.1 percent; barley 227.0 million bushels, down 10.0 percent; soybeans, 2.73 billion bushels, down 5.5 percent; all potatoes, 463.2 million cwt., up 5.8 percent; all tobacco, 889.6 million pounds, down 10.3 percent.